

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:  
a first computing device configured to:

receive a request packet originating from a client, the request packet  
including an identifier;

in response to the request packet, identify a computing device that is  
associated with the identifier;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device,  
perform an operation of a first application in response to the request packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device,  
output a second packet to the second computing device for performing the operation of the first  
application in response to the second packet, the second packet including a reference to a data  
structure of a connection with the client and an indication that the second packet is a forwarded  
packet, the reference to the data structure and the indication being included within a single  
header of the second packet.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the identifier is a  
session identifier.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the session  
identifier is an HTTP session identifier.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the identifier is a URL identifier.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the identifier is an SSL identifier.

11.-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

receiving a request packet originating from a client, the request packet including an identifier;

in response to the request packet, identifying a computing device that is associated with the identifier;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation of a first application in response to the request packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting a second packet to the second computing device for performing the operation of the first application in response to the second packet, the second packet including a reference to a data structure of a connection with the client and an indication that the second packet is a forwarded packet, the reference to the data structure and the indication being included within a single header of the second packet.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the identifier is a session identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the session identifier is an HTTP session identifier.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the identifier is a URL identifier.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the identifier is an SSL identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions that cause a first computing device of an information processing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request packet originating from a client, the request packet including an identifier;

in response to the request packet, identifying a computing device that is associated with the identifier;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation of an application in response to the request packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting a second packet to the second computing device for performing the operation in response to the second packet, the second packet containing a reference to a data structure of a connection with the client and an indication that the second packet is a forwarded packet, the reference to the data structure and the indication being included within a single header of the second packet.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the identifier is a session identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein the session identifier is an HTTP session identifier.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the identifier is a URL identifier.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the identifier is an SSL identifier.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the computer-readable storage medium is a memory of a computing device.

27.-28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the first computing device is configured to identify the computing device associated with the identifier by determining whether the computing device stores the data structure of the connection with the client.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the second packet includes the request packet.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the reference to the data structure includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the port of the application executed by the second computing device is a TCP port.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the port of the application executed by the second computing device is a UDP port.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the first computing device is configured to receive the request packet through a global computer network.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein the first computing device is configured to:

when the identified computing device is the second computing device, output the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the first application is a socket-based application.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the first and second computing devices are servers in a server farm.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein identifying the computing device associated with the identifier comprising determining whether the computing device stores the data structure of the connection with the client.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the second packet includes the request packet.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the reference to the data structure includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the port of the application executed by the second computing device is a TCP port.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the port of the application executed by the second computing device is a UDP port.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the method comprises receiving the request packet through a global computer network.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the method comprises:

when the identified computing device is the second computing device, outputting the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the first application is a socket-based application.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the first computing device is a first destination server in a server farm and the second computing device is a second destination server in the server farm.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the method comprises:

receiving the request packet from the client through a first network;

when the identified device is the first server, performing the operation of the first application in response to the first information packet comprises executing, by the first server, a server application associated with the received packet; and

when the identified computing device is the second server, outputting the second information packet to the second computing device comprises:

generating the second packet; and  
forwarding the second packet to the second server through a second  
network.

50. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:  
a first computing device comprising:  
means for receiving a first information packet originating from a client;  
means for responding to the first information packet by identifying a  
computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;  
means for selectively performing an operation of a server application  
configured to perform the operation when the identified computing device is the first computing  
device; and  
means for selectively outputting a second information packet to a second  
computing device configured to output the second information packet to the second computing  
device when the identified computing device is the second computing device, wherein the second  
computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information  
packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure and an  
indication that the second packet is a forwarded packet, the reference and the indication being  
included within a single header of the second information packet.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the second  
information packet includes the first information packet.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the reference  
includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP  
address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the  
second computing device.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the means for receiving is configured to receive the first information packet through a global computer network.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the means for selectively outputting is configured to:  
when the identified computing device is a second computing device, output the second information packet to the second computing device through a local area network.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the server application is a socket-based application.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the first information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the means for receiving is configured to receive the first information packet in response to the addressing.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 wherein the first computing device and the second computing device are servers in a server farm.



60. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing instructions to cause a first computing device to process information, by performing a method comprising:

receiving a first information packet originating from a client;

in response to the first information packet, identifying a computing device that stores a data structure of a connection with the client;

when the identified computing device is the first computing device, performing an operation of a server application in response to the first information packet; and

when the identified computing device is a second computing device, outputting a second information packet to the second computing device, wherein the second computing device is configured to perform the operation in response to the second information packet, the second information packet including a reference to the data structure and an indication that the second packet is a forwarded packet, the reference and the indication being included within a single header of the second information packet.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the second information packet includes the first information packet.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the reference includes an IP address of the client, a port of a second application executed by the client, an IP address of the second computing device, and a port of the first application executed by the second computing device.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 62 wherein the port of the first application is a TCP port.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the computer-readable medium is a memory of a computer device.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the first information packet is received through a global computer network.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the application is a socket-based application.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 60 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

68. (New) The system of claim 6 wherein the single header comprises a packet type field and the indication comprises a setting of the packet type field.

69. (New) The system of claim 6 wherein the first computing device is configured to address the second packet to a forward-thread IP address of the second computing device.

70. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the single header comprises a packet type field and the indication comprises a setting of the packet type field.

71. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein outputting the second packet comprises addressing the second packet to a forward-thread IP address of the second computing device.

72. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the indication comprises a setting of a packet type field.

73. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein outputting the second packet comprises addressing the second packet to a forward-thread IP address of the second computing device.

74. (New) The system of claim 50 wherein the indication comprises a setting of a packet type field.

75. (New) The system of claim 50 wherein the means for selectively outputting is configured to address the second packet to a forward-thread IP address of the second computing device.